

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8097

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 1571

FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NP, US

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE DISCUSSIONS WITH KARKI DURING GOLF

REF: STATE 076367

1. I DO NOT WANT TO OVERLOAD THE CIRCUIT ON THE OCCASION OF YOUR UPCOMING GOLF GAME WITH FOREIGN MINISTER KARKI. HOWEVER, I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT LIKE TO HAVE MY THOUGHTS ON SUBSTANTIVE ITEMS WHICH MIGHT BE TOUCHED ON AROUND THE FRINGES OF GOLF, IF YOU ARE SO MOVED AND APPROPRIATE OCCASION PRESENTS ITSELF.

2. NEPAL IS INCREASINGLY PREOCCUPIED WITH ITS POSITION IN THE NON-ALIGNED WORLD. THE GON IS ACTIVE IN THIRD WORLD GROUPINGS, HAVING BEEN CHOSEN AS A MEMBER OF THE NON-ALIGNED COORDINATING BUREAU LAST SUMMER AND SUBSEQUENTLY HAVING BEEN SELECTED FOR THE 4-NATION COMMITTEE (NEPAL, GUYANA, LIBERIA, AND SRI LANKA) TO DISCUSS PETROLEUM PRICES WITH OPEC. KARKI MAY WELL HAVE HAD DISCUSSIONS ON ENERGY QUESTIONS DURING HIS STAY IN NEW YORK. IT WOULD BE USEFUL FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW IF YOU COULD REVIEW OUR EFFORTS IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE TO ACHIEVE AN EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF THE WORLD'S ENERGY RESOURCES BETWEEN DEVELOPING AND DEVELOPED NATIONS.

3. YOU MIGHT ALSO WISH TO TOUCH ON OUR CONCERN AT THE INCREASINGLY PRO-SOVIET ALIGNMENT OF THE NON-ALIGNED GROUP ON SUCH ISSUES AS DIEGO-GARCIA, PRG AND GRUNK. NEPAL HAS RECOGNIZED GRUNK,
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BUT ABSTAINS IN VOTES ON THE PRG ISSUE. THE GOVERNMENT AND THE

NEPAL PRESS HAVE BEEN VERY QUIET ON DIEGO-GARCIA. ON THE WHOLE, NEPAL HAS BEEN ONE OF THE MOST MODERATE OF THE NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES AND IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO EXPRESS OUR APPRECIATION AND HOPE THAT THE GON WILL CONTINUE TO TAKE BALANCED POSITIONS ON MAJOR WORLD ISSUES.

4. NEPAL NOW HAS DIRECT INTEREST IN THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION AS A RESULT OF DISPATCHING A 500 MAN CONTINGENT TO UNEF. IN ADDITION TO EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION, YOU MIGHT ALSO WISH TO REVIEW THE CURRENT STATUS OF US EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A DURABLE PEACE IN THE AREA.

5. BECAUSE NEPAL IS STRATEGICALLY PLACED BETWEEN CHINA AND INDIA, THE FONMIN WOULD BE INTERESTED IN YOUR ASSESSMENT OF THE PROSPECTS FOR STABILITY IN SOUTH ASIA AND THE EVOLUTION OF OUR RELATIONS WITH OTHER STATES IN THE AREA. IN THE SAME CONTEXT, NEPAL IS INCREASINGLY INTERESTED IN THE PROGRESS OF OUR EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE DETENTE WITH CHINA AND THE USSR.

6. ON THE BILATERAL LEVEL, THE US HAS VIRTUALLY NO PROBLEMS WITH NEPAL. ONE SUBJECT OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE, HOWEVER, IS NARCOTICS. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO OUR EFFORTS HERE IF YOU COULD UNDERSCORE TO KARKI THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO STRENGTHENED DRUG CONTROLS IN NEPAL AND EXPRESS OUR HOPE THAT HMG'S BASIC NARCOTICS LEGISLATION WILL BE PASSED IN THE COMING LEGISLATIVE SESSION (JULY) OF THE NATIONAL PANCHAYAT. NEPAL AT PRESENT IS WITHOUT A BASIC NARCOTICS CONTROL LAW. YOU MIGHT ALSO NOTE THAT SEVERAL GON POLICE OFFICERS HAVE BEEN SENT TO THE US FOR NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT TRAINING AND THAT WE WOULD BE RECEPTIVE TO FURTHER GON REQUESTS FOR TRAINING.

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